

to continue strengthening the SBIC program.

Sincerely,

BRETT PALMER,

President, Small Business Investor Alliance.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for her support and leadership of innovative small business. I also want to thank Representative ESPAILLAT for his work on this issue in the last Congress, and I urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the SBIR and STTR programs are often the first place small innovative companies come to do business with the Federal Government. They are widely popular here on Capitol Hill, in the administration, and in the industrial base as well. They provide that initial kick-start of funding for ideas that could change the world, literally, for the better.

Mr. Speaker, the reforms contained in H.R. 206 make it easier for those ideas to become a reality. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) for introducing today's bill to increase the assistance to SBIR and STTR firms.

Since their inception, over \$40 billion in awards have been made, proving their success as a funding source for small innovative firms.

As we have done before, we must ensure the longevity of the program by guaranteeing it reflects modern R&D practices. It must also optimize participation through mentorship incentives and Phase 3 awards, in addition to including small business investment companies in the SBIR and STTR programs to stimulate investment.

This bill achieves this goal and guarantees the program meets the needs of our next generation of SBIR and STTR firms. H.R. 206 makes certain that the program remains a catalyst for not just innovation, but also the economic empowerment and job creation that is associated with these scientific advances.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the new Chair of the House Small Business Committee Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for her leadership on this issue and for working with me during the 115th Congress when the Encouraging Small Business Innovation Act first passed in the House. I also want to congratulate Congressman ROUDA on his success in moving this issue forward in the 116th Congress and thank him for his commitment to spur innovation and address the issue of underrepresentation of minorities in the small business community.

The Encouraging Small Business Innovation Act is thoughtful and constructive legislation.

Even in this modern day, we have heard from many minority and women-owned small businesses that they continue to face institutional challenges to growing their businesses. A 2013 report commissioned by the Small Business Administration found that women-owned small businesses do not have equal access to capital from the private sector as compared to their male peers. Furthermore, the Small Business Administration's own Office of Advocacy has said that, "There are fewer minority-owned businesses representing high-patenting industries than in all industries."

Through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, the Small Business Administration works with partners in eleven federal agencies ranging from the Department of Agriculture to NASA to support small businesses, especially those that are owned by members of identified disadvantaged communities. While these programs have made some headway in encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship among women and many minority communities, this vital investment can only be used for research and development. There is no consideration given for testing and evaluation, an extremely resource-heavy task for small businesses. What good is a product or a method when you don't know if it works effectively or efficiently? The Small Business Innovation Act addresses this problem by including "testing" and "evaluation" among the activities for which SBIR and STTR applicants can seek funding. This will empower more underrepresented entrepreneurs to develop new products, expand upon new ideas, and gain respected external validators.

The Small Business Innovation Act also includes a number of other provisions that I believe will significantly help expand entrepreneurship in underserved communities. For example, the bill incentivizes mentorship with previous SBIR- and STTR-recipient companies that have found success in the programs to impart their knowledge and share their experience. It also welcomes investment by Small Business Investment Companies into SBIR and STTR projects, which will increase the investment of capital from more diverse streams of funding. The bill also prioritizes data collection and reporting, ensuring that evaluation of the program leads to increased efficiency and additional participation. Finally, and most importantly, the bill makes explicit commitments to increasing the participation of underserved populations in the small business community.

So again, I thank my colleague, Mr. ROUDA, and Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for taking up this important cause and I congratulate them both on a job well done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 206.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

JANUARY 14, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 14, 2019, at 3:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa S. Res. 16

Appointments:

Syria Study Group

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control for the 116th Congress

United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

EXPANDING CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 190) to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 190

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 31(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS.—A contracting officer may award sole source contracts under this section to any qualified HUBZone small business concern, if—

"(i) the qualified HUBZone small business concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of such contract opportunity;

"(ii) the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more qualified HUBZone small business concerns will submit offers for the contracting opportunity;

"(iii) the anticipated award price of the contract will not exceed—

"(I) \$7,000,000, in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a standard industrial classification code for manufacturing; or

"(II) \$4,000,000, in the case of all other contract opportunities; and

"(iv) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price."

(b) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—Subsection (a) of section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS.—In accordance with this section, a contracting officer

may award a sole source contract to any small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans if—

“(1) such concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of such contract opportunity;

“(2) the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans will submit offers for the contracting opportunity;

“(3) the anticipated award price of the contract will not exceed—

“(A) \$7,000,000, in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a standard industrial classification code for manufacturing; or

“(B) \$4,000,000, in the case of any other contract opportunity;

“(4) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price;

“(5) the contracting officer has notified the Administration of the intent to make such award and requested that the Administration determine the concern's eligibility for award; and

“(6) the Administration has determined that such concern is eligible for award.”.

(c) **CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.**—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) **AUTHORITY FOR SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.**—A contracting officer may award a sole source contract under this subsection to any small business concern owned and controlled by women described in paragraph (2)(A) and certified under paragraph (2)(E) if—

“(A) such concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of the contract opportunity;

“(B) the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more businesses described in paragraph (2)(A) will submit offers;

“(C) the anticipated award price of the contract will not exceed—

“(i) \$7,000,000, in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a standard industrial classification code for manufacturing; or

“(ii) \$4,000,000, in the case of any other contract opportunity;

“(D) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price;

“(E) the contracting officer has notified the Administration of the intent to make such award and requested that the Administration determine the concern's eligibility for award; and

“(F) the Administration has determined that such concern is eligible for award.”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8) **AUTHORITY FOR SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN IN SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERREPRESENTED INDUSTRIES.**—A contracting officer may award a sole source contract under this subsection to any small business concern owned and controlled by women certified under paragraph (2)(E) that is in an industry in which small business concerns owned and controlled by women are substantially underrepresented (as determined by the Administrator under paragraph (3)) if—

“(A) such concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of the contract opportunity;

“(B) the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more businesses in an industry that has received a

waiver under paragraph (3) will submit offers;

“(C) the anticipated award price of the contract will not exceed—

“(i) \$7,000,000, in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a standard industrial classification code for manufacturing; or

“(ii) \$4,000,000, in the case of any other contract opportunity;

“(D) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price;

“(E) the contracting officer has notified the Administration of the intent to make such award and requested that the Administration determine the concern's eligibility for award; and

“(F) the Administration has determined that such concern is eligible for award.”.

(d) **ELIMINATION OF THE INCLUSION OF OPTION YEARS IN THE AWARD PRICE FOR CONTRACTS.**—Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637) is amended by striking “(including options)” each place such term appears.

SEC. 3. SBA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM NOTIFICATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall notify the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate when the Administrator has implemented each of the following:

(1) A program to certify small business concerns owned and controlled by women (as defined in section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m))).

(2) A program to certify small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans (as defined in section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q))).

(b) **ADDITIONAL NOTICE.**—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit a copy of a notification required under subsection (a) to the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives so that the Law Revision Counsel may execute the amendments required under section 4.

SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION UPON IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

Effective upon the notification described under section 3, the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 8(m)—

(A) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (F); and

(B) in paragraph (8)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (F); and

(2) in section 36(a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraphs (5) and (6).

SEC. 5. GAO REPORT.

(a) **STUDY.**—With respect to the procurement programs of the Small Business Administration for small business concerns owned and controlled by women (as defined in section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m))) and for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans (as defined in section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q))), the Comptroller General of the United States

shall conduct an evaluation of the policies and practices used by the Administration and other Federal agencies to provide assurances that contracting officers are properly classifying sole source awards under those programs in the Federal Procurement Data System and that sole source contracts awarded under those programs are being awarded to eligible concerns.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the Small Business Administration implements the certification programs described under section 3, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate containing the findings made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a).

(c) **SBA CONSIDERATION OF GAO REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall review the report issued under subsection (b) and take such actions as the Administrator may determine appropriate to address any concerns raised in such report and any recommendations contained in such report.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—After the review described under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall issue a report to Congress—

(A) stating that no additional actions were necessary to address any concerns or recommendations contained in the report; or

(B) describing the actions taken by the Administrator to resolve such concerns or implement such recommendations.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 190, the Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019.

The Small Businesses Act sets forth a governmentwide 23 percent goal of Federal contracts that should be awarded to small businesses. Each Federal agency is charged with setting its own small business goals, which are to reflect the maximum possible opportunity for small business within that agency.

Regrettably, small firms face barriers in securing Federal contracts. According to the SBA, small businesses won \$105.6 billion in contracts during fiscal year 2016, representing 23.88 percent of total Federal contract dollars. That is why the Small Business Act gives agencies the ability to limit, or set aside, contracts for small businesses to bid and compete against one another.

The SBA administers several set-asides that are designed to increase the participation of several socioeconomic categories, including the 8(a) program, HUBZone program, women-owned, and service-disabled veteran-owned small business programs.

While most contracts are awarded through competition, sole source contracts also exist if certain criteria are met. However, current sole source awards have become complex and underutilized in recent years. They do not represent the changing nature of Federal contract awards and have become outdated. H.R. 190 raises the dollar amount of sole source awards to reflect modern contract awards.

I applaud Mr. MARSHALL and his cosponsor, Mr. SCHNEIDER, for introducing this bill providing flexibility to contracting officers when awarding sole source contracts under SBA contracting programs.

By promoting the use of sole source contracts to small businesses, this bill adds to the government's pool of suppliers. This results in higher quality goods and increased job creation for the economy, as these direct awards require the small business to do the majority of the work and not subcontract out.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 190, the Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019.

I want to commend the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for working in a cooperative and bipartisan manner on this important legislation.

The bill we are considering today passed the House last September because it is both good for small businesses and good for the Federal Government. By raising the potential amount of sole source contract awards, this bill encourages Federal agency contracting officers to do more work with women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, HUBZone, and socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses.

The bill will also strengthen the integrity of the sole source award process by requiring the SBA to actively determine that a women-owned or service-disabled veteran-owned small business is qualified and eligible to receive the award before it is made.

Finally, the bill tasks the Government Accountability Office with assessing Congress' ability to oversee proper spending through sole source awards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), who is a cosponsor of the legislation.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 190, the Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019. I am proud to again introduce this bill with my friend from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

As they did in the last Congress, I encourage my colleagues to join us in passing this important bipartisan legislation.

Women-owned businesses, companies owned by service-disabled veterans, and other types of small firms have unique opportunities to work with the Federal Government through sole source contracting.

Unfortunately, regulations governing these types of contracts, specifically the maximum value amount of the contract, have not kept pace with inflation, and many small business owners often won't pursue these opportunities due to their diminished return. Furthermore, the law includes option years towards the cap, reducing the projected returns and lowering the appeal of sole source contracts.

For these reasons, many eligible small businesses overlook sole source contracts as a quality opportunity to do business with the Federal Government. Our bill would bring the sole source contracting requirements in line with inflation and only apply base years, not the option years, to a contract's cap.

Additionally, programs such as sole source contracting currently depend on small businesses certifying their own eligibility. It is important that we better ensure the integrity of these programs.

H.R. 190 protects these programs through a process whereby the Small Business Administration would confirm eligibility of a participating company. Sole source contractors should present a real opportunity for eligible small businesses. Our legislation would make these contracts more competitive, while enhancing how we ensure they are awarded to eligible companies.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this bipartisan legislation with Dr. MARSHALL to help small businesses, and I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

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Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), one of the chief sponsors of the legislation.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 190, the Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019.

Small business sole source contracting can be a valuable tool for both Federal agencies and small businesses. However, our Federal procurement processes are rapidly changing, and the sole source authority provided by the Small Business Act has not kept up with these changes. By adjusting the

dollar amount thresholds for these contracts, this bill will increase the opportunities available to certain small businesses utilizing the Federal procurement process.

While it is critical that agencies maximize opportunities to small businesses, it is equally important that they have clear guidelines to guarantee only eligible and qualified firms receive the awards. This bill will apply new oversight procedure that requires agencies to coordinate with the SBA to ensure only eligible candidates are awarded a sole source contract.

I am proud of this legislation and its mission to promote small business growth, strengthen oversight, and incentivize Federal agencies to work with small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my colleague Congressman SCHNEIDER for teaming up with us on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill as well.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Dr. MARSHALL as well as Mr. SCHNEIDER for their work and their leadership on this important legislation.

This bill brings the dollar amount of sole source awards in line with the size of current contracts and strengthens oversight by instituting a new eligibility determination check by the SBA before sole source contracts are awarded.

Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Kansas as well as the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this important legislation to provide flexibility to contracting officers when awarding sole source contracts.

H.R. 190 promotes the use of sole source contracts to small business concerns through the SBA contracting programs by raising the dollar threshold of these contract types to account for inflation.

It promotes and preserves a strong, competitive marketplace for our Federal agencies while also strengthening the ability of women, service-disabled veterans, and socioeconomic businesses to participate with the single largest purchaser of goods and services in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 190.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2019

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 430) to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through June 30, 2019.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 430

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “TANF Extension Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM AND RELATED PROGRAMS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019.

Activities authorized by part A of title IV and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act shall continue through June 30, 2019, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2018, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 430, the TANF Extension Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation would extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, known as TANF, and the Child Care Entitlement to States, or CCES, through June 30, 2019.

Due to the stalemate in budget negotiations, TANF and CCES funding lapsed at the end of 2018. Enacting this legislation will allow the Department of Health and Human Services to send States, Tribes, and territories TANF and CCES grants for the second quarter of the fiscal year, which are now late, and to make on-time payments to States for the third quarter.

States depend on Federal TANF and childcare funding to help level the playing field for struggling parents try-

ing to work and support their families. These grants help pay for important programs such as childcare, transportation, and job training. Funds are also used to help cover basic necessities like food, housing, and diapers.

Right now, our failure to pay for what was promised is hurting State budgets, and pretty soon it will begin to affect family budgets as well.

CalWORKs, as my home State of California calls its TANF program, provides help to over 50 percent of poor children in California, which is over 1 million children, but California has a very small reserve of unspent Federal TANF funds to cover the Federal lapse in payment.

Our reserve is about the level of Federal funding the State will use in just over 2 weeks of operating CalWORKs.

California's counties are currently implementing the changes to CalWORKs that we hope will make it even more effective in stabilizing families and lifting them out of poverty. Disrupted Federal funding would make achieving that goal much harder.

We need to do far more to help children and families, and States need more stability and certainty to operate their programs. This is why the first bill that was passed in this new Congress to reopen the government included provisions to extend TANF and childcare for 2 years.

This bill would also have provided Congress with new data on beneficiary sanctions, employment, and poverty outcomes. Unfortunately, the Senate has refused to take up that bill, leaving our government in a partial shutdown and causing Federal funds for TANF and CCES to lapse, as well as payments to the States.

In the meantime, as the two Chambers continue discussions, this legislation will allow us to quickly restore payments and ensure that families who rely on TANF and childcare assistance are not collateral damage in the Trump shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 430, the TANF Extension Act of 2019, which will end the lapse in the TANF program.

For my home State of Missouri, and specifically my district, temporary assistance is a vital lifeline of resources for families. I represent one of the most economically distressed regions in the country and the poorest congressional district in Missouri. In my State, more than 20,000 people and nearly 10,000 families currently rely on TANF.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize this program. Since TANF was created in 1996, funding for the program had never lapsed like this, until now. Federal funding of TANF has now lapsed for 2 full weeks.

TANF has never been tied to a border security debate before, and it shouldn't be now. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 people in Missouri need TANF for a hand up to get out of poverty and back to work.

Tax reform created a roaring economy, but our job is not done. Americans are no longer asking “Where are the jobs?” Instead, employers are asking “Where are the workers?”

When I meet with farmers and small business owners in southern Missouri, they tell me they desperately need more workers.

We have an economy that is built for growth, but millions of Americans are on the sidelines. That is why we need the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to refocus on the outcome of work.

I hope that, during the 6-month extension provided by this bill, my friends on the other side of the aisle will work with us to improve the focus of TANF on outcomes so we can stop only measuring the process. Let's work together to build on the efforts from last Congress so we can help families become self-sufficient through work.

There is pride in work, and a job is the best way out of poverty. When individuals and parents work full-time, the poverty rate drops to just 3 percent.

American taxpayers contribute billions of dollars every year to support those who are in need. It is our responsibility to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used in the most effective way possible. That is why we must reauthorize this program immediately and why I have pushed for reforms.

House Republicans want every person on TANF who is work eligible to have an individual plan for how to get back into the workforce. The new goal isn't to get someone into a job for 2 weeks. The new goal is to get them into a job and keep them there so they can start their career and build a better life.

That means we want to surround Americans with more support to allow them to build their lives, like childcare and transportation. That is what we will continue to push for as we work on a longer extension.

What has become clear is that we can do a lot better to address the needs of those struggling to get ahead. With this bill, we renew the program and set the stage to make additional reforms we know are needed to expand the opportunity so that everyone can benefit from strong economic growth.

Reforming TANF to improve the lives of more American families must be our priority, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to complete this reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 430, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), an incredible advocate for those in need.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding.